

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01892 221054Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 FAA-00 MCT-01
SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 OC-06 CCO-00 USSS-00 DHA-02
IO-13 /094 W

----- 091163 /20

R 220634Z DEC 76
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3941
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 1892

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGEGC PINT PFOR IZ
SUBJECT: BAGHDAD AIRPORT EXPLOSION

REF: BAGHDAD 1864

1. GOI IS NOW USING FIGURE OF OVER 200 INJURED IN
DECEMBER 14 BOMB BLAST AT BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.
ON DECEMBER 18, MINISTRY OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED THAT 52
VICTIMS WERE STILL IN HOSPITALS. GOI HAS NOT REVISED
ITS ORIGNIAL FIGURE OF FOUR DEAD, BUT IT IS PROBABLE
THAT BY NOW DEATH FIGURE IS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER.

2. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IS NOT CERTAIN THAT EXPLOSIVE-
LADEN SUITCASE CAME TO BAGHDAD ON MISR AIR FLIGHT
-OTHER
POSSIBILITIES ARE THAT IT CAME ON MEA FLIGHT WHICH
ARRIVED JUST BEFORE MISR AIR AIRCRAFT OR THAT IT WAS
PLACED IN CUSTOMS AREA BY SOMEONE WHO CARRIED IT BY
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HAND INTO BAGHDAD AIRPORT.

3. ALTHOUGH GOI IS STILL ATTEMPTING TO PIN BLAME FOR
THIS ATROCITEUON SYRIAN REGIME, MOST INFORMED OBSERVERS
IN BAGHDAD ARE SKEPTICAL OF GOI'S ALLEGATIONS AND TEND
TO GIVE SYRIAN REGIME CREDIT FOR MORE POLITCAL SENSE

THAN WOULD BE INDICATED BY RANDOM KILLING AND MAIMING
OF A NUMBER OF INNOCENT PEOPLE. IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY
TO ME THAT PERPETRATORS WERE SMALL AND SOMEWHAT
IRRATIONAL EXTREMIST GROUP WHO BELIEVED THAT THEIR
ACTION WOULD EITHER WEAKEN IRAQI REGIME BY DEMONSTRATING
ITS INABILITY TO DEFEND THE PUBLIC, OR ALTERNATIVELY,
WOULD BLACKEN IMAGE OF SYRIAN REGIME BY MAKING IT
APPEAR THAT SYRIAN OFFICIALS HAD COMMITTED THE OUTRAGE.
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Message Attributes

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